CLAIMS

1. A method of treating cancer, comprising administering to a subject an effective anti-cancer amount of a pharmaceutical composition having the formula:

$$Z^2$$
 Z^1
 Z^1
 Z^1
 Z^1
 Z^1

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wherein Z¹ is O, S, SO₂, NH, or NR_a, R_a being C₁₋₆ alkyl;

 X^1 is O, S, CH₂, two singly bonded H, CH(R_b) in the E or Z configuration, or C(R_b)(R_c) in the E or Z configuration, each of R_b and R_c, independently, being C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₆₋₁₂ aryl, C₃₋₈ cycloalkyl, C₃₋₈ heteroaryl, C₃₋₈ heterocyclic radical, or halogen, X^1 being two singly bonded H when Z^1 is SO₂;

 Z^2 is O, S, NH, NR_d, CHR¹, or CHOR¹ in the (R) or (S) configuration, wherein R_d is C₁₋₆ alkyl and R¹ is H, halogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, C₂₋₆ alkynyl, NR_dR_e (except where Z^2 is CHOR¹), or the side chain of any naturally occurring α -amino acid, or R¹ and R² taken together are a bivalent moiety, provided that when R¹ and R² are taken together, Z¹ is NH or NR_a and Z² is CHR¹; R_e being H, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, or C₂₋₆ alkynyl, and the bivalent moiety forming a C₃₋₈ cycloalkyl, C₃₋₈ heteroaryl, C₃₋₈ heterocyclic radical, or C₆₋₁₂ aryl, where the H in CHR¹ is deleted when R₁ and R₂ taken together form a C₃₋₈ heteroaryl or C₆₋₁₂ aryl;

 R^2 is C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} haloalkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, azido, C_{2-6} alkynyl, halogen, OR_f , SR_f , NR_fR_g , $-ONR_fR_g$, $-NR_g(OR_f)$, or $-NR_g(SR_f)$ (each of R_f and R_g , independently, being H, C_{1-6} ,

alkyl, C_{1-6} haloalkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, or C_{2-6} alkynyl), or R^1 and R^2 taken together are a bivalent moiety, the bivalent moiety forming a C_{3-8} cycloalkyl, C_{3-8} heteroaryl, C_{3-8} heterocyclic radical, or C_{6-12} aryl, where the H in CHR¹ is deleted when R_1 and R_2 taken together form a C_{3-8} heteroaryl or C_{6-12} aryl;

 A^1 is H, the side chain of any naturally occurring α -amino acid, or is of the following formula,

$$-(CH_2)_m-Y-(CH_2)_n-R^3X^3$$

wherein Y is O, S, C=O, C=S, -(CH=CH)-, vinylidene, -C=NOR_h, -C=NNR_iR_{i'}, sulfonyl, methylene, CHX⁴ in the (R) or (S) configuration, or deleted, X⁴ being halogen, methyl, halomethyl, OR_h, SR_h, NR_iR_{i'}, -NR_i(OR_h), or -NR_i(NR_iR_{i'}), wherein R_h is selected from H, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, C₂₋₆ alkynyl, C₁₋₁₀ acyl, C₁₋₆ alkylsulfonyl, and C₆₋₁₀ arylsulfonyl, and each of R_i and R_{i'}, independently is selected from H, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, C₂₋₆ alkynyl, and C₁₋₁₀ acyl; m is 0, 1, 2, or 3, and n is 0, 1, 2, or 3; and R³ is straight chain or branched C₁₋₈ alkylene, C₃₋₁₀ cycloalkylidene, C₃₋₁₀ cycloalkylidene, C₃₋₁₀ cycloalkylene, phenylene, C₆₋₁₄ arylalkylidene, C₆₋₁₄ arylalkylene, or deleted, and X³ is H, hydroxyl, thiol, carboxyl, amino, halogen, (C₁₋₆ alkyl)oxycarbonyl, (C₇₋₁₄ arylalkyl)oxycarbonyl, or C₆₋₁₄ aryl; or R³ and X³ taken together are the side chain of any naturally occurring α -amino acid; and

 L^{O} is H or an organic moiety having 1 to 25 carbon atoms, 0 to 10 heteroatoms, and 0 to 6 halogen atoms; and

a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

2. A method of treating cancer, comprising administering to a subject an effective anti-cancer amount of a pharmaceutical composition having the formula:

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wherein Z¹ is O, S, SO₂, NH, or NR_a, R_a being C₁₋₆ alkyl;

 X^1 is O, S, CH₂, two singly bonded H, CH(R_b) in the E or Z configuration, or C(R_b)(R_c) in the E or Z configuration, each of R_b and R_c, independently, being C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₆₋₁₂ aryl, C₃₋₈ cycloalkyl, C₃₋₈ heteroaryl, C₃₋₈ heterocyclic radical, or halogen, provided that when Z¹ is SO₂, X¹ is two singly bonded H;

 Z^2 is CHR¹ in the (R) or (S) configuration, R¹ being H, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, C₂₋₆ alkynyl, hydroxyl, halogen, a side chain of a naturally occurring α -amino acid, OR_d, SR_d, or NR_dR_e (each of R_d and R_e, independently, being H, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, or C₂₋₅ alkynyl);

 Z^3 is O, S, NH, or NR_i, wherein R_i is C₁₋₆ alkyl;

X² is O or S; and

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 A^1 is H, the side chain of any naturally occurring α -amino acid, or is of the following formula,

 $-(CH_2)_m-Y-(CH_2)_n-R^3X^3$

wherein Y is O, S, C=O, C=S, -(CH=CH)-, vinylidene, -C=NOR_h, -C=NNR_iR_{i'}, sulfonyl, methylene, CHX⁴ in the (R) or (S) configuration, or deleted, X⁴ being halogen, methyl, halomethyl, OR_h, SR_h, NR_iR_{i'}, -NR_i(OR_h), or -NR_i(NR_iR_{i'}), wherein R_h is selected from H, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, C₂₋₆ alkynyl, C₁₋₁₀ acyl, C₁₋₆ alkylsulfonyl, and C₆₋₁₀ arylsulfonyl; and each of R_i and R_{i'}, independently is selected from H, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, C₂₋₆ alkynyl, and C₁₋₁₀ acyl; m is 0, 1, 2, or 3, and n is 0, 1, 2, or 3; and R³ is straight chain or branched C₁₋₈ alkylidene, straight chain or branched C₁₋₈ alkylene, C₃₋₁₀ cycloalkylidene, C₃₋₁₀ cycloalkylene, phenylene, C₆₋₁₄ arylalkylidene, C₆₋₁₄ arylalkylene, or deleted, and X³ is H, hydroxyl, thiol, carboxyl, amino, halogen, (C₁₋₆ alkyl)oxycarbonyl, (C₇₋₁₄ arylalkyl)oxycarbonyl, or C₆₋₁₄ aryl; or R³ and X³ taken together are the side chain of any naturally occurring α -amino acid; and

a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

- 3. The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the cancer is selected from carcinoma, lymphoma, sarcoma, and myeloma.
- 4. The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein said cancer is selected from
 25 adenocarcinoma, acinic cell adenocarcinoma, adrenal cortical carcinomas, alveoli cell
 carcinoma, anaplastic carcinoma, basaloid carcinoma, basal cell carcinoma, bronchiolar
 carcinoma, bronchogenic carcinoma, renaladinol carcinoma, embryonal carcinoma, anometroid
 carcinoma, fibrolamolar liver cell carcinoma, follicular carcinomas, giant cell carcinomas,
 hepatocellular carcinoma, intraepidermal carcinoma, intraepithelial carcinoma, leptomanigio

carcinoma, medullary carcinoma, melanotic carcinoma, menigual carcinoma, mesometonephric carcinoma, oat cell carcinoma, squamal cell carcinoma, sweat gland carcinoma, transitional cell carcinoma, tubular cell carcinoma, amelioblastic sarcoma, angiolithic sarcoma, botryoid sarcoma, endometrial stroma sarcoma, ewing sarcoma, fascicular sarcoma, giant cell sarcoma, granulositic sarcoma, immunoblastic sarcoma, juxaccordial osteogenic sarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, leukocytic sarcoma, lymphatic sarcoma, medullary sarcoma, myeloid sarcoma, austiogenci sarcoma, periosteal sarcoma, reticulum cell sarcoma, round cell sarcoma, spindle cell sarcoma, synovial sarcoma, and telangiectatic audiogenic sarcoma, neural blastoma, glioblastoma, astrocytoma, melanoma, leiomyo sarcoma, multiple myeloma, Hemangioma,

Hodgkin's disease, Burkitt's lymphoma, and nodular poorly-differentiated lymphocytic lymphoma, nodular mixed lymphocytic lymphoma, nodular histiocytic lymphoma, and diffuse lymphomas.

- 5. The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein Z^1 is NH or NR_a .
- 6. The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein A^1 is $-(CH_2)_m$ -Y- $(CH_2)_n$ -R³X³ and Y is CHX⁴ in the (R) or (S) configuration.
 - 7. The method of claim 6, wherein Y is CHX^4 in the (S) configuration and X^3 is H.
 - 8. The method of claim 7, wherein m and n are each 0.
 - 9. The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein \mathbb{Z}^2 is CHR¹ in the (R) configuration and \mathbb{R}^1 is \mathbb{C}_{1-6} alkyl.
- 20 10. The method of claim 2, wherein X^2 is O and Z^3 is O.
 - 11. The method of claim 1, wherein R^2 is OR_f and R_f is H.